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Atorney Docket No. 970668D/LH

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Masaki HIGURASHI et al

Serial No. : 08/964,180

Filed : November 4, 1997

For : IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS  
FOR JOINING A PLURALITY OF  
IMAGES

Art Unit : 2612

Examiner : L. Nguyen

**RESPONSE TO SPECIES ELECTION**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

This is in response to the Office Action dated April 9, 2002, setting a shortened statutory period for response expiring on May 9, 2002.

Applicants hereby elect Species III corresponding to Fig. 14. At least claims 2, 3, 10, 14, 20, 22 and 28 are readable on the elected species. There is no change in inventorship from the originally listed inventors.

It is respectfully requested that prosecution of this application proceed on the basis of the election made above.

Respectfully submitted,

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date noted below.

*Robert P. Michal*

Attorney: ROBERT P. MICHAL

Dated: April 23, 2002

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper, to Account No. 06-1378.